Summary of Environmental Consequences by Impact Topics		
TOPICS	**ALTERNATIVE 1**	**ALTERNATIVE 2**
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice	Growth would eventually create pressure to convert agricultural land in eastern end of the study area to rural residential development in the long term. Scattered residential development under existing zoning densities could affect emergency service response times resulting in adverse impacts on public health and safety. Since most housing in the study area is likely to be expensive, rural residential estates, low-income and minority populations could be particularly impacted by shortfalls in affordable housing. Traffic volumes would increase on the roadways and highways due to population and housing growth outside the study area. The portion of traffic increases that are attributable to activities in the study area is expected to be minimal.	A TDR program could encourage higher density growth in existing urban areas. Additional funding for agricultural protection programs could provide more opportunities to maintain farming- and ranching-related employment. New recreational opportunities could attract new visitors to the area, creating modest increases in jobs over Alternative 1. Adverse impacts on low-income and minority populations due to shortages of affordable housing would be similar to Alternative 1. Alternative 2 would add a negligible increment to the traffic volumes and congestion that are expected in Alternative 1, with no change in projected levels of service.
Land Use	County zoning, regulations, and tax incentives would continue to provide major beneficial protection of agricultural land within the study area in the near term. However, indirect impacts from future rising land values and population growth pressures may result in additional pressure to develop land in the long term. Easements would continue to provide a moderate beneficial impact on agricultural land because funding sources are limited and land values are exceptionally high.	If funding options and growth management actions were successfully implemented, more agricultural land (both prime and unique farmland and grazing land) could be protected than under Alternative 1, resulting in long-term beneficial impacts. Direct and indirect adverse impacts from development would be reduced as there would be more resources to protect land faced with development pressures.
Biological Resources	Direct and indirect adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species and their habitat on private lands may occur as a result of agricultural activities or residential and commercial development and their associated infrastructure. Impacts may include fragmentation of habitat and introduction of invasive species if non-native plants are introduced to developed areas. Activities associated with public agency missions such as recreation, silviculture, or military activities would have a negligible to major adverse impact depending on the activity and its relationship to sensitive species. Restoration and habitat management activities on public lands and landowner stewardship activities would continue to have long term positive benefits.	Additional land conservation programs and restoration activities with an emphasis on ecosystem management and habitat restoration would have a long term, direct beneficial impact on biological resources. Direct adverse impacts on biological resources from low-intensity, limited recreation and access, would be negligible. Direct adverse impacts from high intensity recreation would range from negligible to major depending on the location of facilities and trails. Use of siting, design, monitoring, educational programs, and adaptive management strategies could mitigate impacts from recreation. Greater use and application of existing funding programs would have a moderate beneficial impact on biological resources on private land. Beneficial and adverse impacts on public lands would be similar to those expected under Alternative 1. Establishment of marine protected areas would have an overall beneficial impact on species that rely on marine wetlands.

Summary of Environmental Consequences by Impact Topics

TOPICS	ALTERNATIVE 1	ALTERNATIVE 2
Cultural Resources	Historic structures, archeological sites and historic ranching landscapes located on private land would continue to receive some positive benefit from agricultural preservation through zoning, easements, Williamson Act contracts, and landowner stewardship. Development of land and some agricultural practices could cause direct adverse impacts on cultural and archeological resources through degradation or total loss of resources in the long term. Public land management of cultural resources would continue to have a long-term beneficial impact on the protection of cultural resources, despite some direct adverse impacts from poaching and vandalism. Chumash organizations would continue to protect cultural and sacred sites, yet lack sufficient access to some sites on private land.	Additional land use tools could provide additional long-term indirect beneficial impacts on cultural resources by controlling development that could occur under Alternative 1. Depending on the intensity and location, increased recreational use may cause adverse impacts on cultural resources. However, minor beneficial impacts may result from interpretive sites in recreational areas that increase public knowledge of the sensitivity of archeological resources. As in Alternative 1, public land management of cultural resources would continue to have long-term beneficial impacts. Allowing Chumash groups to access and protect cultural and sacred sites at Point Conception would result in beneficial impacts by helping to meet their cultural and religious needs.
Recreational Use and Experience	A growing imbalance between recreation supply and demand would have some effect on the quality of recreational experience as sites would become crowded more often and management staff capabilities are stretched. Future recreational opportunities in the study area would continue to be limited by private property concerns, increasing land values, and limited funding for additional recreational areas. Existing partnerships and funding programs would continue to have a negligible to moderate beneficial impact on recreation.	Adverse impacts on recreation in the study area would be somewhat reduced in comparison to Alternative 1 as funding sources and stronger priorities for recreation would enhance recreation and meet the long-term needs of the local and regional communities. Potential increases in recreational opportunities would mean fewer days of over-capacity use thereby increasing the quality of recreational use and experience in the study area.
Scenic Resources	In the near term, the area's scenic qualities would remain relatively high with some minor impacts resulting from current development proposals and projects. In the long term, increasing pressure for urbanization near the rural urban limit line and development of rural residential estates under existing zoning could result in cumulative adverse impacts on scenic resources and public opportunities to access scenic resources.	Protection of additional open space could reduce the adverse impacts of development on scenic resources in the long term as compared to Alternative 1. Acquisition of additional recreational areas and construction of new trails would provide more opportunities for public access to scenic resources.
Water	Water quality at beach areas would continue to be a public health and safety concern. With the exception of Vandenberg AFB, lack of coordinated watershed management programs to address water pollution within the study area could result in cumulative adverse impacts on water quality.	Protection of open space and restricting development could have a long-term beneficial impact on water quality and supply in the study area relative to Alternative 1. Watershed planning could help reduce long-term adverse impacts on the water quality, which would have an indirect beneficial impact on public health and safety at study area beaches.

Summary of Environmental Consequences by Impact Topics		
Topics	**Alternative 1**	**Alternative 2**
Air	The County Clean Air Plan predicts that a large percentage of air quality emission increases for the year 2015 will result from sources outside of the study area and Santa Barbara County. Without detailed projections and study of the impacts on air quality from build-out and increases in the jobs/housing imbalance to the year 2030, it is not possible to determine the extent of the impact on air quality.	Actions under Alternative 2 are unlikely to have additional impacts relative to those expected under Alternative 1.
Cumulative Impacts	Impacts under Alternative 1 identified for population, housing, employment, and traffic are expected to have an adverse cumulative effect on the respective resources. Over time future development could cause fragmentation of sensitive habitat, agricultural land conversion, and adverse impacts on scenic resources. With the exception of Vandenberg AFB, lack of coordinated watershed management programs within the study area could result in cumulative adverse impacts on water quality.	Emphasis on ecosystem management and habitat restoration would have a long term, direct beneficial impact on biological resources. Actions that limit development in the study area would stop cumulative adverse impacts from land development such as continued rising land values, conversion of agricultural land, and fragmentation of habitat.

Jalama Beach, NPS photo

This report has been prepared by the National Park Service, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, Planning & Partnerships team.